**Thesis Guidelines NURS 649**

Following are some different possible topics that you can focus on when writing your thesis paper:

* RN staff retention
* Decreasing CAUTI’s
* Healthy workplace initiatives
* Decreasing readmissions for high risk populations like COPD and Congestive Heart Failure Interdisciplinary rounding or communication.

If you do not choose one of the above topics please check with your Professor on the topic you are thinking about using.

The thesis needs to include data analyses so you will need to include a literature review and conduct a survey in order to provide a statistical analyses.

**When writing your thesis it will help you if you keep your APA Manual handy as you will need to refer to that when writing your paper. This manual provides you with specific details on the type of information that you need to include in each section of your thesis.**

**Make sure to set your paper up in APA format including title page, running head, page numbers, a reference page, and all other APA format guidelines related to font and citations.**

**Following are some helpful guidelines and tips from the Professor to help you get started with understanding the format you will need to use when writing your paper.**

Use the following format to structure your thesis paper.

Page 1 is the Title Page – Follow APA guidelines for setting up this page

Page 2 is the Abstract – This needs to be on a separate page and needs to be set up using APA format

Page 3 – This is where your thesis introduction begins. Following are some guideline tips to help you set up the key sections that you need to use in the paper.

Introduction of the Problem Section - In this section you do not use the specific term Introduction. This is where you present the specific problem under study and describe the research strategy that you used to identify the problem. You start with the introductory sentence and answer the following questions:

Why is the problem important?

How does the study relate to previous work in the area?

What are the primary and secondary hypotheses and objectives of the study and what, if any, are the links to theory?

How do the hypotheses and research design relate to one another?

What are the theoretical and practical implications of the study?

Refer to your APA manual for additional information and a description of the information that answers these questions.

* Literature Review – Use this specific heading for this section in your paper. This is where you include research syntheses and meta-analyses of the already published evidence-based practice literature that you found to support the need to address the problem that you identified and your strategies to address the problem. See your APA manual for the additional specific information to include in this section.
* Method – Use this specific section heading in your paper. This section describes in detail how the study was conducted. This is where you include the information on the survey that you conducted to gather data or any other tool that you used to collect data. See your APA manual for specific details on the additional information that you need to include in this section.
* Results – Use this specific section heading. This is the section that you summarize the collected data and the analyses performed on the data relevant to the discourse that you are writing about in your paper. Make sure to report the data in sufficient detail to substantiate your conclusions. Refer to your APA manual for additional specific information that needs to be included in this section.
* Discussion – Use this section heading – This follows your results section and after presenting the results you are now going to evaluate and interpret the implications of the results. In this section you examine, interpret, and qualify the results and draw inferences and conclusions. Refer to your APA manual for additional specific information that needs to be included in this section.
* Implications or Conclusion – Use either of these terms for this section. This is where you summarize the overall implications related to the problem, results, and include recommendations that are needed for future research.
* Reference Page – This page or pages are on the last pages of your document. Do not start the reference page on the last page of your document that has your implications or conclusion. You need to use a new page to start this section.